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From the above it appears that the consumption of spirits in the United Kingdom and the United States does not differ very materially, averaging in each instance about one gallon per head. In France, and in Germany, also, the case is, however, altogether different, for here the consumption over a series of years averages more nearly two gallons per head than one. . . .

As regards the question of the taxation of alcoholic beverages it is stated in the memorandum that the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the United States all derive large revenues from the taxation of such beverages, the actual proportion so derived to the total revenue being in the case of the United Kingdom 35 per cent; in France, 19 per cent; in the United States, 30 per cent; and in Germany,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent; and it is in these countries that the amount of drink consumed is the largest.— *Board of Trade Journal*, London, volume xxiv, number 138.

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#### COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

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The following summarized report is reprinted from *Notes on the Subjects Discussed at the St. Petersburg Meeting of the International Statistical Institute*, presented by Major P. E. Craigie at a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society :—

M. Tarnovsky read a paper, which presented features of special interest, on the proportion of *Acquittals to Offences and Crimes in Russia from 1889-93*. He thought that sufficient attention had not hitherto been given to the numerically recorded results of the different systems of jurisdiction in vogue in the great European countries. There were difficulties owing to the varied forms of criminal procedure, but points for comparison might be found in such questions as the relative proportion of acquittals by different tribunals.

In general there were more acquittals in trials by jury than without. He gave a table illustrating this by the proportion of acquittals for every 100 persons tried in a court of first instance in the following countries :—

	With Jury.	Without Jury.
Russia (1889-93).....	34	26
France (1889-93).....	29	7
Austria (1883-93), excluding Hungary.....	26	14
Germany (1889-93).....	25	13

These figures were, however, not entirely homogeneous, as in Russia notably the *tribunaux d'arrondissement* try in the first instance more than half their cases with the assistance of a jury, whilst in the other three countries the number of cases tried by a jury does not exceed 5 or 6 per cent of the total cases tried by a court of first instance, and in France the proportion is even less than 3 per cent. But if only those cases are taken for Russia, which are tried both in France and Russia equally with the assistance of a jury, the proportion of acquittals for Russia would be 32 per cent, as against 29 per cent for France.

The figures quoted show that both jury and magistrates are more indulgent in Russia than in Western Europe, but it is especially remarkable that the difference is much greater for the courts which try cases without the assistance of a jury than for those which have a jury. Moreover, in Germany and Austria the jury acquits twice, in France as much as four times, as often as the State tribunals (*tribunaux d'Etat*). In Russia the jury only acquits to an extent of one-third more than the magistrates.

The high proportion of acquittals in Russia is due to a variety of reasons, which render criminal procedure slow and insecure; chief of these is the immense area of the different judicial districts, which on an average occupy in Russia 40,000 square kilomèters, while in Germany and Austria they consist of 3000 to 4000 square kilomèters, and in France of only 1000 square kilomèters. In the same way a court of first instance in Russia has to deal with 1,200,000 inhabitants, in Austria with 370,000, in Germany with 300,000, and in France with only 110,000.

The greater indulgence of a jury becomes especially noticeable when regard is had to the sex of the accused. In Russia juries, on the average, for the period 1889-93, acquitted 34 per cent of the

men and 51 per cent of the women. The corresponding acquittal figures for France during the same period were 25 per cent men and 49 per cent women. Magistrates, on the contrary, hardly make any difference between the sexes. In Russia they acquitted 26 per cent men and 25 per cent women in the *tribunaux d'arrondissement*, and in France 6.6 per cent of the men, and 9 per cent of the women.

Making a comparison of the crimes which are almost identical in the two countries, France and Russia, the following table shows the proportion of acquittals by a jury:—

Russia.		France.	
Offences.	Acquittals per Cent.	Offences.	Acquittals per Cent.
Forgery ( <i>Faux Divers</i> ).....	57	Wounding and assaulting.....	45
Destruction of property	50	Forgery ( <i>Faux Divers</i> ).....	39
(incendiarism).....		Breach of trust.....	39
Swindling and breach of	50	Destruction of property.....	37
trust.....		Uttering false coin.....	34
Offences against morality.....	48	Offences against morality.....	33
Wounding and assaulting.....	45	Homicide.....	31
Uttering false coin.....	39	Robbery without violence.....	19
Robbery with violence.....	38	“ with “.....	14
Homicide.....	34	Sacrilegious robbery.....	9
Robbery without violence.....	27		
Sacrilegious robbery.....	26		

The causes producing the proportion of acquittals in the various offences are thus almost the same in the two countries; habitual criminals have much less chance of being acquitted either by a jury or a magistrate than first offenders. Recidivism is most frequent among the various forms of theft and robbery, while, further, these offences are generally not very complicated, proofs being readily obtainable. But forgery and breach of trust are very different; here the offenders are generally educated persons, who can make a good defence, and thus are the more likely to obtain an acquittal. The same analogy can be showed, though to a smaller extent, in the acquittals of courts without a jury, as, taking the same quinquennial period 1889-93, the following table shows:—

Russia. Tribunaux d'arrondissement without a Jury.		France. Tribunaux correctionnels.	
Offences.	Acquittals per Cent.	Offences.	Acquittals per Cent.
Libel .....	54.5	Libel.....	30.8
Wounding and assaulting.....	49.5	Perjury.....	23.4
Destruction of property.....	38.1	Manslaughter.....	16.2
Swindling, breach of trust.....	37.6	Swindling, breach of trust.....	10.4
Perjury.....	37.0	Offences against morality.....	7.0
Homicide.....	25.0	Wounding and assaulting.....	6.3
Rebellion and assaults on officials..	16.0	Destruction of property.....	6.2
Theft .....	13.7	Theft.....	5.7
Vagrancy and Begging.....	6.0	Vagrancy and Begging.....	2.4
		Rebellion and assaults on officials.....	2.3

The greatest proportion of acquittals by a jury are reported from Southern Russia. But, as regards acquittals in decisions by magistrates without a jury, the most indulgent districts are those in the west, although the juries in these same districts are severe; so much so that in 11 courts (*tribunaux*) in the west and northwest of Russia in Europe the magistrates acquit more often than the jury.

#### STATISTICS OF TRADE UNIONS.

The *Ninth Report of the Chief Labor Correspondent of the Board of Trade* on Trade Unions deals with the statistics for 1896.

Year.	Total Number of Trade Unions.	Membership of All Trade Unions. Thousands.	Membership of 100 Principal Trade Unions. Thousands.
1892	1,184	1,461	913
1893	1,239	1,453	917
1894	1,285	1,424	931
1895	1,316	1,397	921
1896	1,330	1,487	966

From the returns received it appears that there are 127 trade unions that have female members, the aggregate number of such members amounting to 108,578.